

LISTING OF CLAIMS

This listing replaces all previous listings, and versions, of claims in this application.

1. (Currently Amended) A pincerlike instrument for an endoscope, comprising:

a flexible sheath;

a pair of limbs provided at the fore-end of said flexible sheath, that open and close as a pincers, by remote operations from the base-end of said flexible sheath; ~~and~~

a water supply channel that is formed inside said flexible sheath for ejecting water from the fore-end of said flexible sheath by supplying said water from said base-end of said flexible sheath; and

a pair of pivots such that one pivot of said pair of pivots is arranged on one side of the axis and another pivot of said pair of pivots is arranged on another side of the axis, at the front-end section of said flexible sheath,

wherein a water ejection opening of said water supply channel is disposed at the base portion of said pair of limbs and between said two limbs, with said water ejection opening facing forward, and

wherein each of said limbs is separately rotatable about a respective pivot of said pair of pivots, and said water supply channel passes between said pair of pivots.

2. (Original) An instrument according to claim 1, wherein said water ejection opening is positioned to be coaxial with the axis of the front-end section of said flexible sheath.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) An instrument according to claim 1, wherein said limbs are insulated from each other and function as high-frequency current electrodes.

6. (New) The instrument according to claim 1, further comprising:
first and second electric-conductive operating wires each electrically and mechanically connected to a respective limb of the pair of limbs,
wherein the water supply channel is positioned between the first and second electric-conductive operating wires over an entire length of the first and second electric-conductive operating wires.

7. (New) The instrument according to claim 1, further comprising:

first and second arm sections each formed integrally with a respective limb of the pair of limbs and extending away from the fore-end beyond the pair of pivots,

wherein the first and second arm sections are connected to a respective electric-conductive operating wire configured to mechanically rotate the pair of limbs about the pair of pivots, respectively.

8. (New) The instrument according to claim 1, wherein the water supply channel includes a hard plastic pipe having the water ejection opening and fixedly connected to an intra-sheath portion of the water supply channel at a position inside the flexible sheath, and

wherein the intra-sheath portion of the water supply channel is not exposed to an exterior of the fore-end of the flexible sheath.

9. (New) The instrument according to claim 1, further comprising:
a non-conductive spacer disposed between the pair of limbs and electrically insulating the pair of limbs from one another,

wherein the pair of pivots respectively penetrate the non-conductance spacer in a generally lateral direction.

10. (New) The instrument according to claim 1, further comprising:

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a fore-end member including at least one of hard plastic or ceramic,
the fore-end member being fixedly connected to the fore-end of the flexible
sheath and including a slit facing forward.